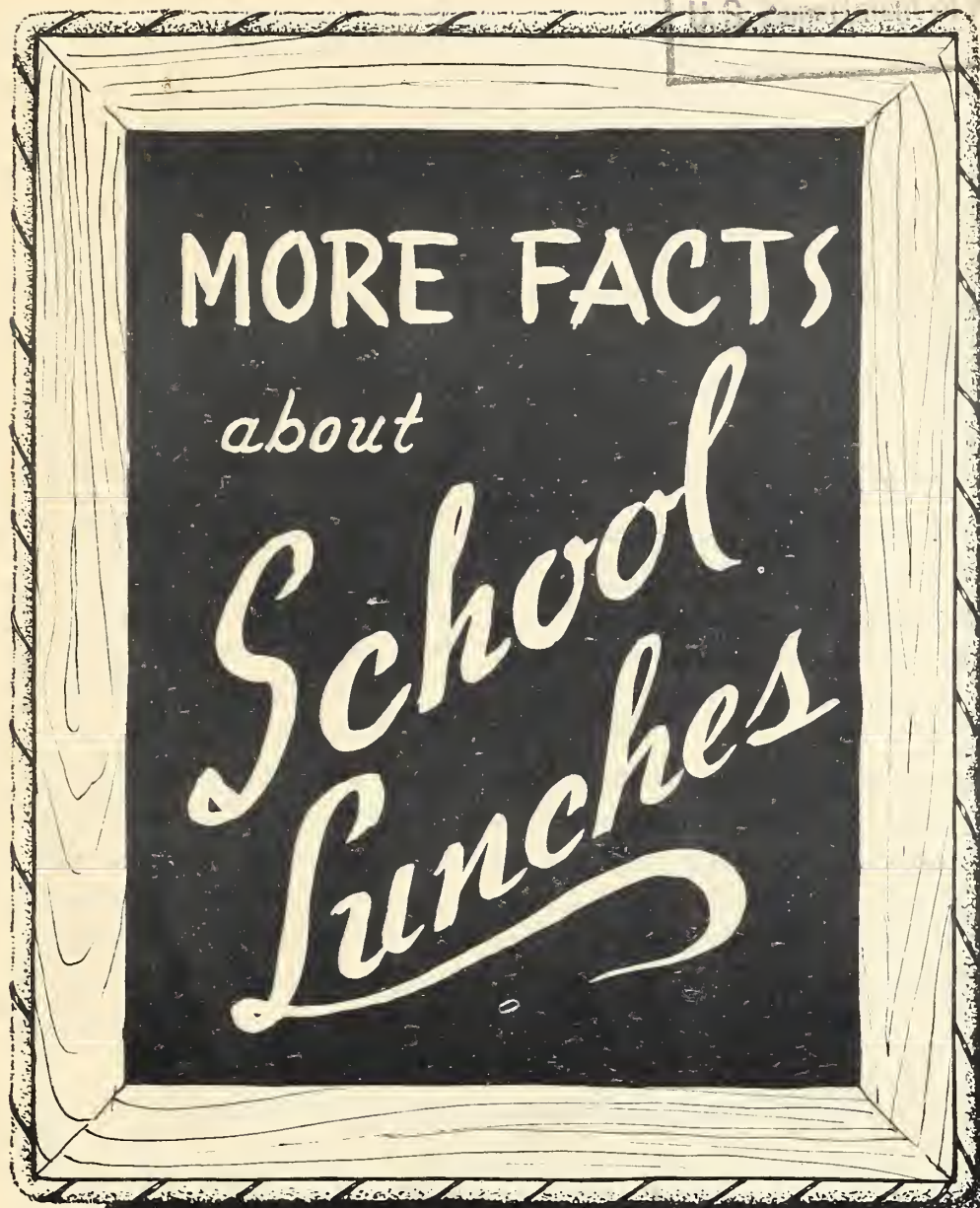


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U. S. Department of Agriculture
Surplus Marketing Administration
Distribution and Purchase Division
Washington, D. C.

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MORE FACTS ABOUT THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The distribution of farm surpluses to the School Lunch Program is one method of surplus removal used by the Surplus Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture. The Surplus Marketing Administration donates the surplus foods to the State welfare agencies in all states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Teachers, social workers, or any organizations or individuals interested in child welfare may assist in these programs; however, school lunches are a community enterprise and at the community level sponsors usually merge their interests with school officials, public health authorities, civic and service groups. During the 1939-40 school year approximately three million children in forty-three thousand schools received lunches prepared in whole or in part from surplus foods.

The Work Projects Administration and the National Youth Administration are often in a position to provide lunch room attendants, some equipment and numerous advisory services. The Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Farm Security Administration, and the U. S. Public Health Service are among other federal agencies that render valuable services.

This bulletin explains briefly the provisions under which state welfare agencies may make surplus foods available to schools for lunches for needy and undernourished children. State and local public welfare officials and Directors of Commodity Distribution are in a position to give information concerning these programs, and inquiries may be made directly to these officials.

Q. 1. What schools may receive surplus foods?

A. A school to be declared eligible must be supported by funds derived from federal, state or local governmental subdivisions. Other schools supported by funds derived from educational, religious, or charitable organizations may, at the discretion of state or local certifying agencies, be determined eligible.

Private and parochial schools which make application may, at the discretion of the state or local certifying agency, be determined eligible to receive surplus foods for child feeding. The Surplus Marketing Administration recognizes only the welfare of the child and in no instance considers participation in the lunch program a subsidy to the institution in which the child is enrolled.

The eligibility of a school to receive surplus foods is determined by the local certifying agency on a basis of need and evidences of malnutrition in the children attending the school.

Q. 2. Is a school lunch program operated on a contractual basis, or through a concessionaire, eligible for surplus foods?

A. No.

Q. 3. How are surplus foods obtained for school lunches?

A. Application is made to local or state departments of public welfare or to agencies authorized by the state welfare department to approve or disapprove applications. Surplus foods are available for distribution to schools in all of the 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Q. 4. What provisions are in effect to permit schools to receive surplus foods for use in school lunches?

A. Plans for programs are very flexible and can be adapted to suit local conditions. However, when surplus foods are used, three provisions must be observed:

1. That the program must operate on a nonprofit basis.
2. That children must not be segregated in any way to indicate a distinction between the paying and nonpaying groups. More specifically, there shall be no discrimination between certified and noncertified children as regards the method or manner of serving lunches, the type of lunch served, the type of equipment used, or the assignment of lunch room space.
3. That the quantity of foodstuffs which has been, or might otherwise be, purchased will not be curtailed in the event that surplus foods are made available.

Q. 5. May a school receiving surplus foods sell lunches?

A. If the provisions described above under Q. 4 are complied with, lunches containing surplus foods may be sold.

Q. 6. What determines the quantity of surplus foods schools receive?

A. This quantity of surplus foods to be received by a school will be determined on the basis of the total number of needy and undernourished children certified as eligible. Allocations will be based on the established rates of distribution per child, per month.

Q. 7. How do school lunch programs utilizing surplus foods usually operate?

A. Following certification by an approved agency, surplus foods are distributed to the schools according to local procedure. Usually, a sponsor (that may be an organization or individual) is necessary in order to provide such nonsurplus foodstuffs, facilities, and equipment as may be required for preparing or serving a school lunch. In many schools, lunch programs operate entirely within the school with no outside sponsor. If the school is not equipped to prepare hot lunches, it may be certified to receive surplus foods which do not require cooking, such as fresh and dried fruits and evaporated milk, when these items are available.

Parents who are able to do so, usually prefer to make cash contributions which will often pay a large part of the cost of providing lunches for all the children. Some parents who cannot pay cash will contribute food or supplies.

In a few large cities, hot lunches are prepared in central kitchens and delivered to the schools by trucks. In rural areas, a hot dish may be prepared on the flat top of a heater stove, or a complete balanced meal may be served from a well-equipped school kitchen.

General questions concerning the school lunch program are answered above, but more specific questions regarding the program in schools of your own community should be directed to your State Department of Public Welfare. In most of the states a representative of the Surplus Marketing Administration is available, whose primary interest is to assist in the school lunch program.